

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JOSEPH ALSOP COLUMN, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, WASHPOST, HEADLINED: "UNDERCUTTING HENRY KISSINGER."

2. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER IS TRYING AGAIN TO AVERT WAR IN THE MIDEAST, DESPITE EVERYTHING THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE CAN DO TO HAMPER THIS EFFORT. HERE ARE A FEW HARD FACTS ABOUT OTHER HANDICAPS HE HAS TO SURMOUNT.

3. THE VIRTUOUS LEFTWING-DEMOCRATIC GRAVEDIGGERS OF ISRAEL HAVE BEEN CHEERING FROM THE ROOFTOPS FOR THE TRIUMPH OF THE "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES IN PORTUGAL. ALAS, HOWEVER, THE WICKED FORMER GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL DIFFERED FROM ITS SUCCESSOR IN OTHER WAYS BESIDES COMPARATIVE VIRTUE.

4. IN 1973, TO BE SPECIFIC, THE PORTUGUESE MOST COURAGE-
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OUSLY ALLOWED REFUELING IN THE AZORES BY US PLANES, WHEN

IT WAS NEEDFUL TO ORGANIZE AN EMERGENCY AIRLIFT TO SUPPLY ISRAEL IN THE YOM KIPPUR WAR. THERE IS NOT A TINKER'S CHANCE IN HELL THAT THE NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WILL DO ANYTHING OF THE SORT IN THE FUTURE. WITHOUT THE AZORES TO REFUEL THE US C-5A TRANSPORTS, AN AMERICAN AIRLIFT'S VALUE WILL BE REDUCED BY CLOSE TO FOUR-FIFTHS.

5. THE GRAVEDIGGERS OF ISRAEL, FOR THE USUAL HIGH-MINDED REASONS, HAVE ALSO DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO INCREASE THE POWER OF OIL BLACKMAIL BY THE ARABS. MAXIMUM EXPLOITATION OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY WOULD HARM THE ENVIRONMENT. REDUCING OIL CONSUMPTION BY HIGHER GASOLINE PRICES WOULD BE AS HARD ON THE POOR AS ON THE RICH. BEING TOUGH ABOUT ENERGY, IN SUM, IS ALWAYS "REGRESSIVE."

6. SO HERE IS THIS COUNTRY, NAKED AS A JAYBIRD IN THE FACE OF ANY THREAT OF A RENEWED ARAB OIL EMBARGO. AND THERE ARE THE ARABS, ALREADY PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO RENEW THE OIL EMBARGO AGAINST ANY WESTERN POWER THAT DOES NOT SUPPORT THEM AGAINST THE ISRAELIS.

7. FOR THE SAME REASONS, THIS COUNTRY'S EUROPEAN ALLIES ARE NOT MERELY READY TO STAND ASIDE AND CRITICIZE AID TO ISRAEL IN A SNIDE WAY, AS THEY DID IN THE 1973 WAR. THEY ARE READY - ALMOST EAGER - TO SUPPORT THE ARABS AGAINST THE ISRAELIS IN ANY FURTHER OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING. THEY WILL POSITIVELY OBSTRUCT U.S. AID. THEY WILL ASSIST THE ARABS AT THE UNITED NATIONS. IN SUM, THEY WILL PAY OIL BLACKMAIL WITH BOTH HANDS.

8. FINALLY, THE AMERICAN GRAVEDIGGERS OF ISRAEL ARE ALSO THE GRAVEDIGGERS OF A SERIOUS AMERICAN DEFENSE EFFORT. AS A RESULT, IN 1973 THE U.S. WAS PRODUCING 200 TANKS A YEAR AGAINST 3,000 IN THE SOVIET UNION. EVEN TODAY, THE FIGURE IS UNDER 600 US TANKS A YEAR AGAINST CLOSE TO 4,000 SOVIET TANKS--FOR THE SOVIETS HAVE INCREASED OUTPUT SUBSTANTIALLY.

9. HENCE THE TANKS GOING TO ISRAEL TODAY FROM THE U.S. ARE LITERALLY BEING TAKEN FROM THE HANDS OF SOLDIERS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. COMBAT UNITS. AS A LEADING ISRAELI PUT IT RECENTLY, "THE OPPONENTS OF AMERICAN DEFENSE HAVE CREATED A SITUATION IN WHICH YOU AMERICANS NO LONGER HAVE THE CAPACITY TO HELP YOUR FRIENDS TO HELP THEMSELVES."

10. THESE FACTS ARE NOW RELEVANT BECAUSE EVERY ONE OF THEM CONSTITUTES A MOUNTAINOUS NEW OBSTACLE THAT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WILL HAVE TO SURMOUNT, IF HE IS TO HAVE

MUCH CHANCE OF PREVENTING ANOTHER OUTBREAK OF MIDDLE EASTERN FIGHTING. FOR THE SHORT RUN, TO BE SURE, HE MAY SOMEHOW MANAGE TO GET SOME SORT OF NEGOTIATION GOING AGAIN, LOOKING TOWARD A MORE PERMANENT MIDDLE EASTERN SETTLEMENT. THIS IS HIS IMMEDIATE AIM.

11. BUT THAT WILL BE ONLY PUTTING OFF THE EVIL DAY--THE DAY WHEN THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF AN ACTUAL SETTLEMENT

HAVE TO BE FACED AND SOLVED. FOR THAT FUTURE DAY, SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ONLY TWO ASSETS. EGYPT'S PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT IS NOT EAGER TO BRING THE SOVIETS BACK INTO THE MIDEAST IN FULL FORCE, IF ONLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE TRIED TO KILL HIM ONCE ALREADY. KING FAISAL OF SAUDI ARABIA HAS THE SAME RELUCTANCE FOR OTHER REASONS.

12. ON THE OTHER HAND, ALL THE INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT PRESIDENT SADAT IS UNDER MORE AND MORE PRESSURE FROM CRITICS OF HIS POLICY TILTING TOWARD THE U.S. INSTEAD OF THE SOVIETS. THE CRITICS ARE SAYING, IN EFFECT, "IF YOU CANNOT GET THE AMERICAN FRIENDS TO DELIVER SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL, THEN LET US GO TO MOSCOW AGAIN; AND IN THE NEW SITUATION, WE CAN FORCE THROUGH A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT." IN SUM, SADAT WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO GO TO MOSCOW, UNLESS HE GETS HIS SETTLEMENT FIRST.

13. MEANWHILE, MOREOVER, THE GREATLY INCREASED STRENGTH OF THE ARAB POSITION, FOR ALL THE REASONS LISTED ABOVE, IS CONTINUOUSLY CHANGING THE ARAB DEFINITION OF A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT.

14. THUS THE ANTE IS BEING CONTINUOUSLY RAISED. WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR SERIOUS TALK OF SETTLEMENT, IT WILL

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THEREFORE BE ALMOST SQUARING THE CIRCLE TO GET AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARABS. YET THE ALTERNATIVE WILL BE RENEWED WAR. (END TEXT) INGERSOLL

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